

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 174365

10

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 /128 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP/EB

8/31/73 EXT 22538

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

----- 115049

R 312126Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 174365

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 174365

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT:AUGUST 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FIRST TRUCK CONVOY IN 6 DAYS BRINGS FOOD TO PP FROM BATTAMBANG AS FANK CLEARS ROUTE 5 AFTER HARD FIGHTING. ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SOM REMAINS CLOSED WITH KI HOLDING 6 MI. STRETCH THROUGH JUNGLE AGAINST FANK ATTACKS FROM BOTH ENDS. KI ASSAULTS AGAINST PREK THNOT DAM SITE 40 MI. W OF PP BEATEN OFF WITH REPORTED HEAVY ENEMY CASUALTIES AS FANK SUFFERS 7 DEAD, 10 WOUNDED; NO REPORT OF DAMAGE TO UN-ASSISTED PROJECT, DAMAGED BY KI IN 1971 BUT SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION THIS YEAR. SOME FIGHTING CONTINUES AT SURROUNDED PROVINCE CAPITAL OF TAKEO, AND CLASHES REPORTED AT KOMPONG TRAM, SITE OF SUGAR REFINERY 18 MI. SW OF PP (NYT; WP; CSM; AP, SUN; UPI CHITRIB, NYDN; REUTER). WILLIAMS (REUTER) REPORTS, NOTING SPECULATION THAT KI WANT TO CAPTURE SURROUNDED KOMPONG CHAM TO SET UP A RIVAL CAPITAL, THAT HEAVY DAMAGE SUSTAINED AND MORE THAN 100 RESIDENTS KILLED OR WOUNDED WHEN ENEMY LAUNCHED 300-ROUND MORTAR AND ROCKET BARRAGE EARLY AUGUST 31, MAINLY DIRECTED AT TEXTILE PLANT ON CITY'S OUTSKIRTS; FANK REINFORCING OPPOSITE BANK OF MEKONG IN EFFORT TO STOP SHELLING, CLAIMS KI USED POISON GAS INCAPACITATED 6 SOLDIERS.

2. NCNA (REUTER) REPORTS SIHANOUK, TO QUELL SPECULATION OF GKR-KI MOSCOW PEACE TALKS, DENIES INSURGENTS WOULD EVER CONTACT WITH LON NOL REGIME; SAYS GKR LEADERS WOULD BE HANGED AS TRAITORS AND WAR CRIMINALS WHEN PP LIBERATED, AND THAT HIS SUPPORTERS DON'T RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF USSR OR ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY TO INTERFERE IN CAMBODIAN DISPUTE.

3. ONE OF FIVE EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS BACK FROM VC AREA REPORTS THAT ALL WERE UNDER HEAVY GUARD FOR 2 DAYS UNTIL IDENTITY ESTABLISHED. AFTER RETURNING, GVN POLICE QUESTIONED THEM FOR 8 HOURS; 2 VIETNAMESE DRIVERS REMAIN IN CUSTODY (REUTER).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 174365

4. GVN VICE-PREMIER VIEN REJECTS COMMUNIST CHARGES GVN HAS SENT TROOPS INTO CAMBODIA (REUTER).

5. SKIRMISHING AROUND KONTUM CITY HAS ERUPTED INTO FULL-SCALE BATTLE. GVN SAYS 22 COMMUNISTS AND 4 ARVN KILLED (CHITRIB, WP).

6. COMMUNIST SAPPERS BLOW UP BRIDGE NEAR DANANG CUTTING OFF MAIN NORTH-SOUTH HIGHWAY. NORTH-SOUTH TRAFFIC HALTED, BUT IT IS HOPED TEMPORARY LINK WILL BE OPENED FRIDAY (REUTER). CAPITAL MILITARY SOURCES SAY INCREASED COMMUNIST ATTACKS SW OF SAIGON ARE PART OF EFFORT TO CUT ROUTE 4, ISOLATING MEKONG DELTA RICE FROM SAIGON.

NO REPORT OF VC CASUALTIES, BUT GVN REPORTS 3 KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED (REUTER).

7. GVN'S ACTING FM DUC SAYS USSR AND PRC HAVE MORAL

OBLIGATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO REPAIRING OF SVN WAR DAMAGE BECAUSE DONE BY WEAPONS THEY SUPPLIED NVN (REUTER, CSM).

8. THIEU'S PARTY NEWSPAPER, DAN CHU, QUOTES HIM WARNING VC THAT BECAUSE OF C-F VIOLATIONS, GVN WILL NOT GIVE ANY MORE GROUND IN NEGOTIATIONS TO VC. RECONCILIATION WILL BE ONLY BY GENERAL ELECTIONS - NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS (REUTER).

THAILAND

9. US AND THAI MILITARY SPOKESMEN IN BANGKOK SAY 2,100 US FORCES AND 36 PLANES WILL HAVE DEPARTED NAM PHONG BY WEEKEND; SECOND SQUADRON OF MARINE F-4 PHANTOMS LEAVING BASE TODAY AND LAST F-4 SQUADRON LEAVES SATURDAY (UPI NYT, CHITRIB). TALKS ON SECOND PHASE OF PULLOUT

UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN EARLY NEXT WEEK (WP; REUTER, SUN).

CHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 174365

10. PRC WINS TEAM TITLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN AT PEKING ASIAN- AFRICAN-LATIN AMERICAN TABLE TENNIS FRIENDSHIP INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (AFP, WP).

11. GRC CONSUL GENERAL IN NY FLATLY DENIES ACCUSATIONS THAT TAINAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM VIOLATED AGE ELIGIBILITY, DISTRICT SIZE AND PRACTICE TIME REGULATIONS (AP, WP).

12. DALAI LAMA SCHEDULED TO VISIT SWITZERLAND TODAY, PROVOKING REPORTS HE MIGHT MEET POPE PAUL VI; BUT SPECULATION NOT CONFIRMED BY VATICAN OR "THE LAMASERY IN LHASA (NYT).

13. PHILA BULLETIN (AUG. 26, JUST RECEIVED) REPORTS RCA HAS ASKED PHILA ARCHITECT VINCENT KLING TO DESIGN 10-SQUARE BLOCK COLOR TV FACTORY FOR ERECTION IN PRC. PLANT WOULD PROVIDE 40-INCH SCREEN SETS FOR CLASSROOMS. RCA BIDDING ON PROJECT AGAINST SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. RCA SPOKESMAN SAYS HE READY FLY TO PEKING, BUT TRIP TO SHOW OFF PLANT MODEL BEING STALLED BY PRC. SPOKESMAN ADDED "THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS" THAT MAO IS "DEATHLY SICK".

JAPAN

14. JOC'S CULLISON, IN TOKYO, REPORTS THAT SINO-JAPANESE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, UNDERWAY IN TOKYO PAST 2 WEEKS, ENDED YESTERDAY WITH CHINESE REJECTING TRADE, COMMERCE AND NAVIGATIONAL TREATY. INSTEAD, THEY AGREED ONLY TO 3-YEAR TRADE PACT CALLING FOR MUTUAL MFN TREATMENT ON TARIFFS AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND CREATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE TO MEET ANNUALLY TO DISCUSS RESPECTIVE TRADE GOALS. JAPANESE HAD HOPED PRC WOULD AGREE TO FULL TREATY WITH PROVISIONS ON PERSONNEL INTERCHANGE AND FOR PROTECTING COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. EXPECTED IN TOKYO THAT NEW TRADE PACT WILL BE SIGNED BY END OF SEPTEMBER, ALTHOUGH CHINESE DO NOT APPEAR IN HURRY TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT AS DO JAPANESE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 174365

PHILIPPINES

15. GOP PRESIDENTIAL SOURCE REPORTS SOVIET WILL SEND

JOINT OIL EXPLORATION AND TRADE MISSION TO MANILA SOON TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTINATIONAL SEARCH FOR PETROLEUM. SOURCE CONTENTS MARCOS HAS CONFIRMED VISIT BY RUSSIAN MISSION, BUT DID NOT SAY WHEN IT WOULD ARRIVE OR LENGTH OF STAY (AP, CSM).
COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

16. AUG. 30 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CCP POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP WIDELY COVERED, PROMPTS NYT'S DURDIN IN HONG KONG TO REMARK THAT NEW POWER LINE-UP INDICATES THAT CHOU STILL NO. 2 MAN, AND THAT IT SEEMS TO CONTAIN A MIX OF NEW AND OLD CIVILIAN LEADERS AND MILITARY TYPES. WP'S GREENWAY, IN SIMILAR VEIN, OBSERVES THAT CHOU APPEARS TO HAVE ACHIEVED A BALANCE, NOTING THAT OLD PARTY VENERABLES, GPCR LEFT, AND MILITARY ALL HAVE VOICE IN POLITBURO. UPI HONG KONG SEES INDICATIONS THAT MODERATES CENTERED AROUND CHOU HAVE DEFINITELY MAINTAINED UPPER HAND OVER RADICALS (NYDN, CHITRIB). DURDIN, GREENWAY, GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS IN PEKING (CSM), AND AFP'S ROMENSKY IN PEKING (PHINQ) NOTE ELEVATION OF WANG HUNG-WEN, FORMER SHANGHAI COTTON MILL WORKER AND CHANG CHUN-CHIAO PROTEGE, TO POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE. MOST REPORTERS ALSO NOTE ABSENCE OF CHIANG CHING AND YAO WEN-YUAN, BOTH GPCR RADICALS, FROM POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE, THOUGH BOTH FORMERLY LISTED AMONG TOP EIGHT OF POLITBURO MEMBERS FOR LAST FEW YEARS.

17. CSM NOTES RISE OF YOUNG WANG HUNG-WEN AS NO.

3 IN CP HIERARCHY AND VIEWS 10TH PARTY CONGRESS AS HAVING REAFFIRMED MAO-CHOU LEADERSHIP AND ITS "PRO-AMERICAN" FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION. SUN SEES WANG'S DESIGNATION AS VICE-CHAIRMAN IN PRESIDUM AN INDICATION OF 10TH CONGRESS FACING UP TO NEED FOR YOUNGER LEADERS AS MAO AND CHOU GROW OLD. SAYS NONE OF THIS MEANS THAT ALL IS POLITICALLY SOMNOLENT IN CHINA, OR THAT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 174365

UPHEAVALS UPON DEATH OF MAO AND CHOU ARE GUARANTEED AGAINST. IT DOES SUGGEST, HOWEVER, A FIRM CONTROL AT THE MOMENT.

18. CSM'S SAIKOWSKI OBSERVES SINO-SOVIET POLEMICS REACHING RAW PITCH, BUT SEES NO SIGNS OF HEIGHTENED TENSION ALONG FRONTIER. CITES PENTAGON SOURCES AS SAYING THERE IS CONTINUING FLESHING OUT OF FORCES ALONG SINO-SOVIET BORDER, BUT IT IS NOT THOUGHT THAT CHINA SERIOUSLY EXPECTS USSR TO ATTACK. AP MOSCOW REPORTS PRAVDA EDITORIAL, PUBLISHED AFTER CONCLUSION OF 10TH CP CONGRESS, DENOUNCING CHINESE FOR ALLEGEDLY

UNCLASSIFIED

MAKING COMMON CAUSE WITH "IMPERIALISM" IN INDOCHINA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AND FOR OPPOSING KREMLIN'S PEACEFUL EXISTENCE CAMPAIGN BECAUSE IT WOULD INTERFERE WITH PRC'S PLANS TO DOMINATE ASIA (SUN).

19. LAT'S DAVID LAMB IN P-NG (AUG. 30) DESCRIBES "CARGO CULT," WHICH REVOLVES AROUND BELIEF OF P-NG TRIBESMEN THAT MATERIAL WEALTH ASSOCIATED WITH THE WHITE MAN BELONGS BY RIGHT TO THE BLACK MAN AND WILL BE RETURNED TO HIM BY SUPERNATURAL POWERS.

20. JOE ALSOP (WP) PRESENTS ARGUMENTS THAT "SAMOKHIN PAPER," WHICH REPORTS THAT USSR IS MOVING STEADILY CLOSER TO WAR WITH CHINA, IS GENUINE WARNING. DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLED OUT OF USSR THIS SUMMER BY MAN CLAIMING TO BE MEMBER OF "LIBERAL UNDERGROUND".

21. IN SECOND INSTALLMENT ON PHILS, CSM'S HAYWARD IN MANILA OBSERVES MARTIAL LAW AND LAND REFORM RESTORING AGRARIAN CALM TO NORTHERN PROVINCE, WHERE COMMIES AND NPA INSURGENTS FORMERLY WERE ACTIVE. HOWEVER, CITES INFORMANTS CLAIMING THAT GOP FORCES HAVE SUSTAINED SUBSTANTIAL CASUALTIES IN MINDANAO OPERATIONS AGAINST MUSLIM GUERRILLAS. SOME YOUNG MUSLIMS ARE SAID TO HAVE GONE TO EGYPT FOR PARA-MILITARY TRAINING; MEANWHILE, MUSLIM TEACHERS FROM ARAB NATIONS SUCH AS LIBYA ENTER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 174365

MINDANAO TO ENCOURAGE MUSLIM UNITY AND DISSENT. MUSLIMS ALSO GET SUPPORT FROM INDONESIAN WETBACKS AND MALAYSIAN MUSLIMS. NOTES THAT FOUR-MAN ISLAMIC FACT-FINDING DELEGATION, THAT VISITED MINDANAO AND SULU MID-AUGUST, EXPRESSED HOPE THEIR MISSION WOULD BE "START OF PERMANENT PEACE IN THE AREA." ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE174365
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP/EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730869/abqceikw.tel
Line Count: 281
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <20-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUGUST 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
MANILA
MOSCOW
PHNOM PENH

SEOUL
TAIPEI
TOKYO
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS
PEKING
USSAG NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005